

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TRIPOL 00607 231519Z
ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5409
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STADIS//////////

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, TECH, LY

SUBJECT: U.S. OFFICIAL PARTICIPATION IN ARAB TECHNICAL MEETING

1. A MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON COORDINATION AMONG ARAB OIL TESTERS TOOK PLACE IN TRIPOLI APRIL 17-20. THIS IS A PURELY TECHNICAL GROUPING AIMED AT STANDARIZATION OF TESTING METHODS FOR CRUDE OIL AND PRODUCTS IN ARAB COUNTRIES. MEETING WAS ATTENDED BY GEORGE T. ARMSTRONG OF USDOC NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS IN RESPONSE TO INVITATION TO NBS BY ORGANIZATION SECRETARIAT WHICH SITS AT CAIRO. ONLY OTHER NON-ARABS PRESENT WERE AMERICAN REPS OF AMERICAN PETROLEUM INSTITUTE AND A COMMERCIAL OIL-TESTING SERVICE WHO WANGLED INVITATIONS.

2. ARMSTRONG, WHO DID NOT CONSULT DEPARTMENT ABOUT HIS PARTICIPATION, CALLED AT EMBASSY APRIL 20. INTER ALIA HE MENTIONED THAT OFFICIAL LIBYANS AND OTHERS HAD EXPRESSED INTEREST IN POSSIBILITY OF SOME TRAINING IN U.S., EITHER UNDER AUSPICES OF NBS OR DIRECTLY WITH PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS, AND THAT HE WOULD BE TAKING THIS UP WITH NBS ON RETURN. WE ADVISED ARMSTRONG THAT THERE COULD BE POLITICAL

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OBSTACLES TO USG TRAINING ASSISTANCE TO LIBYANS AT THIS TIME, AND THAT HE SHOULD BE NON-COMMITTAL IN HIS EXPECTED FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH THEM. WE ALSO SUGGESTED HIS AGENCY CONTACT DEPARTMENT ABOUT MATTER IF IT WISHES TO PROCEED.
BLUCKER

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Message Attributes

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